

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Roland Michener, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

We, Her Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

And on the motion of Mr. Diefenbaker, seconded by Mr. Ricard, in amendment thereto,—That the following be added to the Address:

“This House regrets that Her Majesty's advisers have failed to submit any program to give effective direction with regard to Canada's constitutional development in this Centennial year and has failed to provide for the calling of a National Constitutional Confederation Conference to be widely representative of the governments, Federal and Provincial and of the Territories, and of all political parties for the purpose of repatriating Canada's constitution and revising and amending it as agreed upon so that Canada's future course may be charted in the interests of all the people with a declaration of national goals based on the confident assurance of success that was so selflessly and patriotically displayed by the Fathers of Confederation.”

And debate continuing;

Mr. Douglas, seconded by Mr. Barnett, moved in amendment to the said proposed amendment,—That the motion moved by the Right Honourable Leader of the Opposition be amended as follows: By striking out all the words after the words “Centennial Year” in the fourth line thereof, and adding the following thereto:

“and has failed to prepare and present to this Parliament proposals for amendment to the Constitution of Canada as a necessary preliminary for a national constitutional conference, and has failed to make the proposals necessary

- (1) to set out the legislative powers of Parliament necessary for the maintenance of an effective confederation;
- (2) to provide an appropriate special status for the Province of Quebec;
- (3) to provide for a constitutional Bill of Rights;
- (4) to provide for the patriation of the Canadian Constitution.”

And debate arising thereon;

By unanimous consent, the House reverted to “Motions”.

DECISION OF MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Before leaving the Chair, I think it might be helpful if the Chair were to make a brief reference to the Adjournment Proceedings.

In accordance with section (3) of Standing Order 38, the subamendment proposed earlier this day by the honourable Member for Burnaby-Coquitlam, must be disposed of before the House adjourns at the close of this sitting.

That being the case, it is the opinion of the Chair that the Adjournment Proceedings which might otherwise have taken place at 10.00 p.m. tonight,